104

TOP SECRET [redacted]

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

SPOT COMMENTARY

[redacted]

17 February 1991
1500 EST

IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #578

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Political Developments

Oil Slick Update

Winds from the southeast today are temporarily slowing the southward movement of the oil slick, which is now in Al Dafi bay about 30 kilometers north of Jubail according to press reports. Abu Ali island is also blocking the progress of the slick toward Jubail, but Saudi authorities are worried that wind and currents may eventually push the slick around this natural oil boom, according to press. US Embassy reporting indicates overflights yesterday observed an oily film south of the island.

Italy's De Michelis on War Aims

Foreign Minister De Michelis said in an interview published Sunday that the coalition should not seek to overthrow Saddam Husayn, but added that it would be "much easier to organize the postwar period" without the Iraqi leader.

Comment: De Michelis, in Moscow with other members of the EC "troika," will almost certainly emphasize adherence to the UN resolutions in talks with Soviet officials. He probably also believes that war aims expanded beyond the text of UN resolutions would create political problems for the five-party Italian government.

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